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FILED

DEC 2-7 2013

N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

By: DAG Susan Carboni Tel. (973) 648-2894

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION: OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF:

Administrative Action

MARY ELLEN O'NEILL, R.N. LICENSE # NR05900600 NJ00236100

ORDER OF SUSPENSION OF LICENSE

TO PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED NURSE (R.N.) IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (" Board") upon the receipt of information indicating the following;

Respondent, Mary Ellen O'Neill, is the holder of
 License No. NR05900600/NJ00236100 and is a registered nurse and
 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) in the State of New

Jersey.

- 2. Respondent entered into a private letter agreement with the Board, which she signed on or about March 24, 2011. (Exhibit A) The agreement required respondent to enroll in the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP), undergo evaluation and monitoring, agree to follow recommendations by RAMP for further treatment, and to refrain from the use of any and all potentially addictive substances. (Exhibit A,  $\P2$ , 6, and 10.) The agreement was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. In the event that the Board received reliable information that respondent had acted in violation of the RAMP contract and/or the agreement, the agreement was no longer to remain confidential.
- 3. The Board received an investigative report dated October 7, 2013, indicating that respondent had received wages from Liberty Anesthesia Associates, PC in Bristol, Pennsylvania for all of 2012 and for the first half of 2013. (Exhibit B)
- 4. On or about November 14, 2013, it was ascertained that Ms. O'Neill had been employed during that period in the capacity of a CRNA. (Exhibit B)
- 5. Respondent had been directed by RAMP not to work as a nurse in either Pennsylvania or New Jersey during the timeframe of her employment. (Exhibit C)
  - 6. On or about November 20, 2013, a letter issued by

overnight and regular mail to respondent at her address of record, advising respondent that the Board had received credible information indicating that she was not in compliance with the private letter agreement, and advising her to forward within five days any proof that she was currently in compliance with RAMP.

(Exhibit D)

- 7. Ms. O'Neill responded to the November 20, 2013 letter, indicating that she has been participating in RAMP without any positive drug screenings, and maintaining that she accepted work in Pennsylvania due to financial need. (Exhibit D)
- 8. The private letter agreement signed by respondent provided for automatic suspension of respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that respondent has violated any term of the private letter agreement. The agreement included a provision whereby respondent was to limit her nursing practice if recommended by RAMP. (Exhibit A, ¶13)
- 9. A certification from RAMP's Director dated December 23, 2013 indicates that respondent had been instructed by RAMP not to work as a nurse in either New Jersey or in Pennsylvania until approved by RAMP. (Exhibit C)

IT IS on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013
HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey shall be and hereby is suspended for a period of

two years for her violation of the private letter agreement, which is deemed a violation of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

- 2. Respondent may, under the terms of the private letter agreement, upon notice, request a hearing on the sole issue of whether respondent has failed to comply with the terms of the private letter agreement.
- In the event that respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey nursing license at any future time, the Board shall not entertain any application for reinstatement without respondent's demonstrating that she is fit and competent to practice nursing.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C

Board President